

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 00310 171504Z
ACTION A-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4207

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN M. THOMAS

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OREP
SUBJECT: CODEL SMITH

1. YESTERDAY EVENING CONGRESSMAN JOHN J. FLYNT ASKED
FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON AMERICAN OIL EXPLORATION
IN MOROCCO. WOULD YOU BE GOOD ENOUGH TO DELIVER THE
FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO HIM:

QUOTE: EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES OF U.S. PETROLEUM
COMPANIES IN MOROCCO

AT PRESENT ONLY TWO AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE ENGAGED
IN ACTIVE OIL EXPLORATION IN MOROCCO AND BOTH ARE
CONCERNED ONLY WITH OFF-SHORE OPERATIONS. THE COMPANIES
ARE PHILIPS PETROLEUM AND GETTY OIL. PHILIPS IS WORKING
TEN DEEP-SEA CONCESSIONS OFF THE FORMER SPANISH SAHARA
IN A JOINT VENTURE WITH BP (BRITISH PETROLEUM) AND
MOROCCO'S STATE-OWNED MINING AND MINERAL RESEARCH
CORPORATION BRPM. GETTY, PHILIPS, ITALY'S AGIP AND
BRPM ARE IN A PARTNERSHIP COVERING TEN CONCESSIONS
OFF THE SOUTHERN MOROCCAN TOWN OF ESSAOUIRA, THREE OF
WHICH WERE SIGNED IN LATE SUMMER OF 1977 AND ACTUALLY
RUN FROM THE ESSAOUIRA CONCESSION AREA DOWN TO
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TARFAYA IN THE FORMER SPANISH SAHARA.

EXXON HAS APPARENTLY RELINQUISHED ITS CON-
CESSIONS OFF THE FORMER SPANISH SAHARA IN 1976, AS
DID CHEVRON AND WESTERN WITH THEIR BLOCKS ALONG
MOROCCO'S MEDETERRANEAN COAST. MORE RECENTLY, SUN
OIL TERMINATED EXPLORATION ACTIVITY OFF ESSAOUIRA

DURING MID-1977.

IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MOBIL REACHED AGREE-
MENT LAST OCTOBER WITH MOROCCO'S MINISTRY OF MINES
TO REVIEW ALL OF THE LATTER'S ON-SHORE SEISMIC AND
GEOLOGIC FILES. THERE REMAINS WIDESPREAD FEELING
THAT GIVEN THE MANY GEOLOGICAL CONTINUITIES
CONNECTING MOROCCO AND ALGERIA, SOONER OR LATER
STRUCTURES SIMILAR TO ALGERIA'S OIL DEPOSITS SHOULD
BE DISCOVERED IN MOROCCO. UNQUOTE.

2. THE VISIT HERE WAS A BOON TO ALL OF US, AND
I WILL BE WRITING CONGRESSMAN SMITH ABOUT IT.

WONDERFUL TO HAVE HAD YOU WITH US.
ANDERSON

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NNN

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